



JOHN P. STEINBRINK

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ■ SIXTY-FIFTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

DATE: February 10, 2010

TO: Chair Kathleen Vinehout
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Higher Education

FROM: Rep. John Steinbrink

RE: Assembly Bill 455

I am sorry that I will be unable to attend this morning's hearing but do want to thank Chair Vinehout and the committee for your consideration of Assembly Bill 455.

This legislation was sought by the Department of Transportation to acknowledge greater reliability in the portable scales used to weigh vehicles and loads and to free up valuable staff time in the Motor Carrier Enforcement Section.

DATCP currently certifies permanent scales used to weigh vehicles, and would keep that responsibility under the bill. Current law requires DOT to test portable scales in comparison to DATCP-certified scales every 90 days, taking valuable personnel away from public safety assignments to transport the equipment.

The bill I put forward with Sen. Holperin at the State Patrol's request would require the portable scales to be tested every 180 days. In comparison, the surrounding states of Minnesota, Iowa and Michigan have policies testing these scales annually or every 18 months. The State Patrol has also informed us that an ongoing upgrade to hydraulic scales has significantly increased the department's confidence in their reliability.

The bill passed the Transportation Committee and the full Assembly without opposition, and I understand that Capt. Charles Lorentz of the Wisconsin State Patrol will be at this morning's hearing and available to discuss the section's plans and this bill.

Again, I want to apologize to the committee that I was not able to attend in person, to thank you for your consideration and to ask for your support of Assembly Bill 455.

STATE CAPITOL:
P.O. BOX 8953
MADISON, WI 53708
(608)266-0455

TOLL FREE: 1-888-534-0065
FAX: (608)282-3665
E-MAIL: Rep.Steinbrink@legis.wi.gov

HOME:
8640 88TH AVENUE
PLEASANT PRAIRIE, WI 53158
(262)694-5863